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Hennell, of Apothecaries' Hall (a member of the Society), who reports, that the produce per pound is one hundred and seventy grains of Quinia, and ninety grains of Cinchonia. The common yellow Peruvian bark of the shops is obtained from the *cinchona cordifolia*, and yields, on an average, about one hundred and fifty grains per pound of Quinia.

It appears, therefore, that the Pitoya bark is better than that in common use, and is likely to form a valuable article of export from the state of Colombia.

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No. IV.

SUNDRY ARTICLES FROM SOUTH AMERICA,  
PRESENTED TO THE SOCIETY BY THE REV.  
JAMES THOMSON.

THE articles in the following catalogue were collected in South America by the Rev. James Thomson, and were by him presented to the Society at the end of the last session. Several of these having been referred to committees, are now under examination, and the results of the inquiry will probably be inserted in the next volume of Transactions.

SIR,

London, June 8, 1826.

Agreeably to my promise, I beg leave to send you an enlarged list of the articles I left with you a few days ago. Of the substances enumerated in the enclosed list, there are some which might, I think, be turned to use in the

arts, and I am sure an opportunity of thus turning them to advantage will not be lost by your Society. With this conviction, I would recommend that experiments be made with the Andoqui varnish, with the cabulla, and with the frailejon. Experiments might be made with the first by trying the best means of reducing it to a soft and a liquid state, and the uses to which it might with advantage be applied. Trials might be made with the cabulla, by ascertaining the strength of ropes made from it, compared with those made from other substances. I should think, with a given thickness and weight, a rope or cable made of the cabulla will prove stronger than one made of hemp. If the cabulla rope should turn out stronger than that of hemp, or even equal to it, an article, important to our navy and to our commerce, might in future be got from South America instead of from the north of Europe. The virtues of the frailejon might be tried in medicine and otherwise. I suggest also that the dying qualities of the panti and the chilca be tried, and the nutritive qualities of the quinoa.

With every wish for the prosperity of your very valuable Society, and with a desire to promote its object as far as may be in my power,

I am, Sir,

*A. Aikin, Esq.*

*Secretary, &c. &c.*

*&c. &c. &c.*

JAMES THOMSON.

*List of Articles from South America, presented to the Society of Arts, on May 31, 1826, by Rev. James Thomson.*

1. A hat made from a kind of rush. This specimen is from Ipijapi, in the province of Guayaquil, where they are made in great abundance. These hats are much used in Colombia, Peru, and Chile. They are sold at from one to four dollars, according to their fineness and size. This specimen is one of the largest and finest.
2. A new varnish procured from the uncivilized Indians called Andoquies, who live near the sources of the river Magdalena, in Colombia. This bottle contains the vegetable matter as it is taken from the shrub on which it grows. It is kept in water to preserve it moist. When perfectly dry, it is considered useless, as those who work it up have no means of reducing it again to a soft state. When about to be used, it is put into boiling water, to separate from it the oily matter it contains. When effectually freed from the oil, it is taken out, and the varnisher puts a small quantity into his mouth, and keeps chewing it as he goes on with his work. After thus chewing a bit of the varnish for some time, he takes it out, and draws and extends it between his hands till it becomes exceedingly thin, thinner perhaps than the finest paper. In this state it is laid on the article to be varnished and to which it adheres. When used with gold or silver leaf, as is often the case, the gold or silver is placed between two folds of the varnish, and thus applied; the fold on the inside is to make the whole adhere, and that

on the outside is to varnish and protect the gold and silver which shine through, and produce a good effect. The varnish combines readily with various colouring substances, which the people there use with it, as seen in the specimens below.

3. Specimen of the Andoqui varnish, with gold and silver leaf, &c., laid on paper.
4. Three tetumas or calabashes covered outside and inside with this varnish, with gold and silver leaf, and mixed with various colours.
5. A stirrup from Quito, laid with this varnish.
6. A specimen of the dried varnish, and said to be useless, as it cannot be softened. This specimen is combined with the colouring substance, No. 7.
7. Achote, a red colouring substance from the province of Mainas, situated where the river Huallaga falls into the Marañon or Amazon. It is used with the Andoqui varnish.
8. Cabulla negra, or black cabulla (aloe, the maguey of Mexico).
9. Cabulla blanca, or white cabulla. No. 8 grows in temperate climates, and the fibre of the leaf is but short. It is made into ropes, shoes, &c. Almost all the ropes used in Quito and Bogota are made from the leaves of this plant, so much so, that a *rope* is called a *cabulla*. No. 9 has a very long leaf and fibre, extending to nine feet, as in the specimen. This kind grows only in the hottest climates. It is manufactured into ropes of the finer kinds, and into twine and thread.
10. Twine or thread made from the cabulla, and called *pita*.
11. Two ropes made of the cabulla.

12. A purse made of the same.
13. A man's shoe, and a child's, made from this article.  
This kind of shoes is much used by the common people in Quito and Bogota.
14. The pith of the stem of this plant.
15. Leaf of the palm, called *beneficencia*. It is remarkably strong, and might, I think, be used in the making of cables with great advantage.
16. A new kind of resin or turpentine from the Andes of Popayan. It is called *frailejon*, and exudes from a shrub about three feet high. This specimen is in an imperfect state.
17. *Frailejon* purified.
18. Down taken from the leaves of this plant.
19. A bottle of liquid caouchouc, brought from Quito.  
(On examination, the caoutchouc proves to be coagulated.)
20. A web made of the same.
21. A specimen of waterproof cloth made from the same.

The caouchouc is an exudation from a large tree (said to be like the cedar) which grows in the hottest climates. This specimen was brought to Quito from the banks of the Daule, which flows into the Guayaquil: the name it generally goes by is *jeve*. When sold in Quito, it is of a dirty white colour, very much resembling butter-milk in consistency and appearance. It will keep, exposed to the air, for two or three months, at the end of which time it coagulates, and forms the caouchouc of commerce. The bottle containing this specimen was sealed in Quito on November 12, 1824, at which time the *jeve* was a fortnight old, and having

been excluded from the air, it is still in a liquid state. This substance is chiefly used in Quito in making waterproof ponchos, or cloaks, for which it is well adapted. No. 21 is a specimen of this cloth, and consists of two folds of cotton cloth with eleven coats or layers of the caouchouc between. In this preparation the cloth is stretched out on a frame, when the operator, with his hand or a sponge, lays on one coating, which being exposed to the sun dries in a few minutes, and becomes black. When one coating is quite dry, another is laid on, and this is repeated as often as is required. Five layers are laid on each piece of the cloth, then a sixth is laid on one of the pieces, and before it dries, the two pieces are joined, and adhere firmly to each other as one piece. The only use made of the caouchouc in Quito in the black or coagulated state, is by burning it, and collecting the smoke to be used as ivory black.

- 22. Panti, the leaves of a tree so called, which grows in the province of Quito. It dyes a beautiful brown.
- 23. A pair of stockings dyed with these leaves.
- 24. Chilca, the leaves of a tree growing near Quito, which give a beautiful fast green colour to wool.
- 25. Cotton from Ibarra, in the province of Quito.
- 26. Cinnamon, from Quito.
- 27. Sheep's wool, from Quito.
- 28. Quinua (white), from Quito, used as sago.
- 29. Ditto (red\*), . . ditto.

\* The white and red Quinuas are, according to Mr. Sabine, varieties of a chenopodium, the leaves of which are used in many parts of South America as spinach.

30. Cochineal, from Quito.
31. Ditto, from Amboto.
32. Ditto, from Bogota.
33. A medicinal salt, from Guaranda, near Chimborazo.  
It is said to reduce the goitre.
34. Pereira brava, a medicinal root, said to be useful in  
stopping hemorrhage.
35. Patten used in Quito and Chile.
36. Tanner's bark used in Bogota.
37. Four Petacas (boxes made of matting), from Bogota.
38. Copal, from the province of Mairas.
39. A piece of the balsam-tree of Peru.
40. A pair of gloves made in Ibarra, near Quito.
41. Three wooden spoons, from Guaduas, near Bogota.
42. Specimen of engraving done in Quito.